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Honorable Michael Stoker
Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA, 94105

Dear Regional Administrator Stoker:

Notwithstanding the sad circumstance dampening the spirit of our meeting, I wanted to let you know that I was moved and comforted by your sensitivity and total understanding of our current plight and our continued struggle to strike a balance between responsible stewardship of our environment and the economic development needs of the people of resource-poor islands, such as the Territory of American Samoa.

Since the inception of the Trump Administration, policy shifts on perceived single-minded preoccupation on protecting the environment devoid of any consideration of the economic development and financial implications on the welfare of the people has been most encouraging. This Trump Administration Mantra of according appropriate attention and consideration of economic and financial implications resulting from environmental policies declaration is clearly reflected in your heartening and reassuring comments in our meeting.

It is most fortuitous that you were able to make the trip to American Samoa because actual seeing and experiencing the essence of the statements we incorporate in documents submitted to your office will never be fully felt or understood. Your comments categorizing the close and collaborative working relations between your Office and the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency is most encouraging. This is a testament to Amerko Pato's aggressive, proactive, and bold leadership.

As I relayed to you during our meeting, the American Samoa Government is preparing a proposal articulating our request for your consideration in our attempt to work collaboratively with your office to find a mutually beneficial solution that will truly

strike a balance between preserving the integrity of our environment and sustaining the economic and financial needs of the Territory of American Samoa and its people.

We have struggled with this challenge for a very long time and unfortunately the past solutions have not worked thus necessitating and compelling us to creatively fashion more progressive solutions that will resolve this long-term nemesis. As you so poignantly stated we require "out of the box" thinking to resolve these types of issues.

Thank you again for availing time to meet with me and some of my cabinet members and I certainly look forward to working closely with you on developing a solution that will secure the social, economic, and political future for the Territory of American Samoa.

Sincerely,



Lolo M. Moliga
Governor of American Samoa

Cc: Mr. John McCarrol, Manager, Pacific Islands Office – USEPA
Honorable Lemanu Peleti Mauga, Lieutenant Governor
Talauega Eleasalo Ale, Attorney General
HTC Fiu J. Saelua, Chief of Staff